

What Were We Thinking? Lesson Learned from the Development of MSW Capstone Curriculum

Raquel Ellis, PhD, Krystal Hays, PhD, Viola Lindsey, PhD, and
Kendra Flores-Carter, DSW

College of Behavioral and Social Sciences
Masters of Social Work Program

California State Background

- Shortage of social workers throughout the state
- 1.7 social workers per 1000 people



The Inland Empire

- Poverty, single parenting, child abuse and neglect, and human trafficking rates are all higher than the state average.
- Geographic and ethnic/racial diversity
- High caseloads
- Growing aging population
- Current professionals retiring



Capstone Models

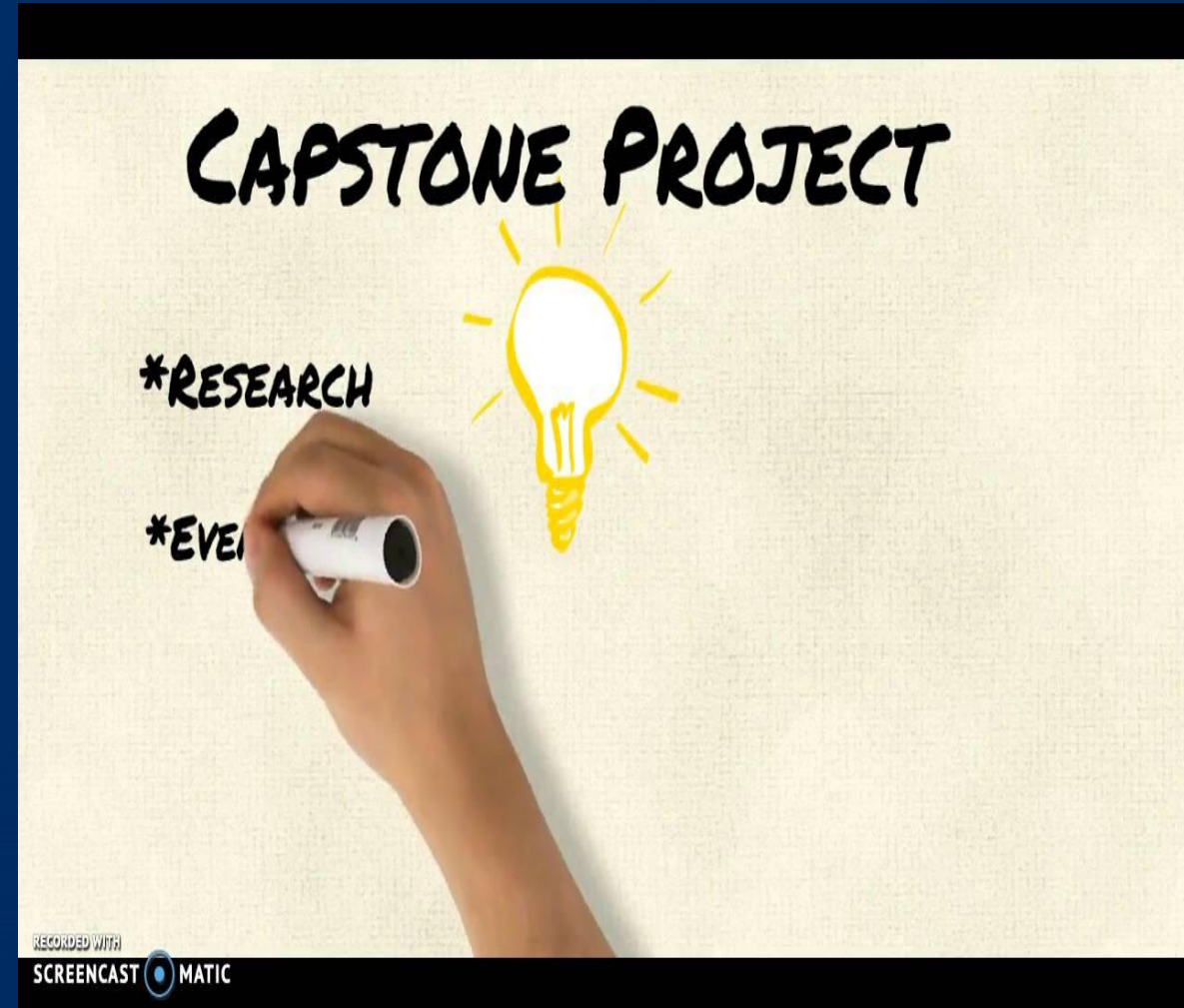
- Leadership
- Research
- Evaluation/Quality Improvement
- Product

Capstone Manual



Capstone Course Requirements

- Capstone I
 - Capstone Project Proposal
- Capstone II
 - Capstone Product
 - Final Paper
 - Poster Presentation



Capstone I Assignment


- Capstone Project Proposal
 - Needs assessment (identify agency need)
 - Literature review
 - Intervention plan and how Project will be evaluated
 - Development of Project timeline
 - Identify collaborators/partners supporting project efforts
 - Identify resources available to support Project
 - Identify barriers and ways to overcome them
 - Develop a sustainability plan
- Approval by Agency Representative and Capstone Instructor

12 Grand Challenges of Social Work

1. Ensure healthy development for all youth
2. Close the health gap
3. Stop family violence
4. Advance long and productive lives
5. Eradicate social isolation
6. End homelessness
7. Create social responses to a changing environment
8. Harness technology for social good
9. Promote smart decarceration
10. Reduce extreme economic inequality
11. Build financial capability for all
12. Achieve equal opportunity and justice

Capstone II Assignments

- Product Development and Delivery
 - Training and presentation materials
 - Binder with group curriculum
 - Individual treatment manual
 - Evaluation materials
- Produce a Final Paper
- Poster Presentation

A person wearing a dark suit jacket and a white dress shirt is holding a dark purple rectangular sign. The sign has the text "Roles and Responsibilities" written on it in a white, serif font. The person's hands are visible at the top and bottom of the sign. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Roles and Responsibilities

Student

- Assess need of agency
- Identify a Plan to meet the agency need
- Collaborate with Agency Representative to develop and carry out Capstone Project
- Evaluate their Project
- Complete all written assignments



Capstone Instructor

- Primary point of contact
- Assess feasibility of Project ideas
- Guidance on Proposal development
- Approve Project Plans
- Provide oversight of Projects



Agency Representative

- Consultant in the development and implementation of Project
- Ensure adherence to Agency Protocols
- Approve Project Plans
- Provide feedback on student performance



Faculty Field Liaison and Faculty Mentor

- Consultant role
- Facilitate supportive discussions about project development and implementation





Agency Challenges

- Lack of awareness of Capstone Project requirements
- Lack of capacity to complete Project at agency
- Delays in project implementation
- Limited time of Agency Representatives to assist and guide students in their projects

Faculty Challenges

- Limited orientation provided to Capstone courses
- Needed to invest extra time to educate students on applied research and data analysis
- Student collaborations across Capstone courses
- Role confusion between Capstone Course Instructor and other Faculty

Students Challenges

- Change in project expectations due to change in MSW Director
- Limited knowledge about applied research concepts and methods
- Students did not have the same instructor across Capstone I and II

Future Directions



Project Requirement Changes

- Development of a new intervention or substantive modification of an existing intervention
- Demonstrate at least 3 advanced practice behaviors associated with the social work competencies
- Complete in 4-6 weeks during Spring semester
- Launch within 1 week of the start of the Spring semester

Adjustments to Course Structure

- Capstone I
 - emphasis on program evaluation concepts and methods
 - draft sections of proposal due throughout course
- Capstone II
 - emphasis on implementation science
 - requires weekly meetings between student and agency representative
 - Capstone Poster Review Committee

Clarification of Roles/Responsibilities

- Removal of Faculty Field Liaisons and Faculty Mentor from consultative role
- Specified expectations of student, agency representative and Capstone Instructor in Capstone Manual

Questions?

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